

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIVISION

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(916)



June 11, 2007

To: Institutions of Higher Education, School Districts, and County Offices of Education that Sponsor Approved BTSA Induction Programs, and/or Education Specialist Level II programs

From: Lawrence Birch, Director
Professional Services Division
California Commission on Teacher Credentialing

Re: Requirements for Program Completion and Guidance for **BTSA Induction, and Education Specialist Level II Programs**

As you may be aware, an Advisory Panel is currently examining the credential requirements and structure for all Special Education credentials in California. Concurrently, there is a statewide study of BTSA Induction taking place. The reports from both of these activities will be used in the review and possible revision of the adopted program standards for both Education Specialist Level II programs and BTSA Induction programs. Both of these reports are due by December 1, 2007. But in the intervening months until revised program standards are adopted, the Commission is providing the following information and guidance to both types of educator preparation programs.

The credential requirements for the Clear or Level II Credential for Multiple/Single Subject teachers and for Education Specialist teachers have a number of similarities and some critical differences. There may be some confusion in the field about which programs are able to recommend for which type of credential and if candidates should be given credit for or required to repeat work on specific topics that occur in both credential programs. The questions and responses below are designed to provide clarity with respect to these issues.

Who recommends the teacher for the Clear Credential?**Multiple or Single Subject
Clear Teaching Credential**

- Approved BTSA Induction Program or
- Approved SB 2042 Fifth Year of Study Program

**Education Specialist
Clear Teaching Credential**

- Approved Education Specialist Programs offered by an IHE or an approved District Intern Program

An approved Education Specialist Program may **NOT** recommend an individual for a Clear Multiple or Single Subject Teaching Credential.

An approved BTSA Induction Program or a SB 2042 Fifth Year of Study program may **NOT** recommend an individual for an Education Specialist Clear (Level II) Credential.

If an individual is completing (or has completed) one type of clear credential program (Induction, Fifth Year of Study, or Education Specialist) does the individual need to ‘redo’ requirements that are common to both programs?

All approved educator preparation programs have the authority to grant an equivalency to any candidate with the appropriate prior experiences—courses or professional experience. It is the responsibility of the recommending professional preparation program to evaluate the individual candidate’s knowledge, skills and ability in granting the equivalency. When a program recommends an individual for a credential, the program is verifying that the individual has completed all appropriate credential requirements—through the usual course of study and/or experiences or through an alternate set of experiences.

Some requirements for the Multiple/Single Subject and the Education Specialist Clear Credentials are closely aligned: Technology, Health and Teaching English learners. If a candidate has completed, or is in the process of completing the requirements for one of the following topics within one approved clear credential program, the other preparation program should use the equivalency process mentioned above.

	Multiple/Single Subject Clear Teaching Credential Programs	Education Specialist Clear Teaching Credential Programs
Technology	Standard 16: Using Technology to Support Student Learning	Technology course
Health	Standard 18: Creating a Supportive and Healthy Environment for Student Learning	Health course
English Learners	<i>Standard 19: Teaching English Learners</i>	<i>Standard 19: Teaching English Learners</i>

Teaching Special Populations

A candidate working towards a multiple or single subject clear credential who also holds a Preliminary Education Specialist Credential and is working towards a Clear Education Specialist Credential, has completed significant work on the topic of teaching special populations in the area of special education. It is appropriate for the approved BTSA Induction program to work with the individual on what specific activities related to Program Standard 20 are appropriate for the individual to complete and which should be deemed already met. The individual holding both the general and special education credentials may not have addressed the portions of Induction Program Standard 20 in relation to gifted individuals, but has most likely satisfied the requirements related to

special education. The equivalency process mentioned above should be utilized in these situations.

What is the difference between a Level I and Level II Education Specialist Credential program?

The Education Specialist Standards published in 1996 *Standards of Program Quality and Effectiveness for Education Specialist Credential Programs* (page 11-12) provide a description of the components of a Level II program. The purposes include the following statements.

- * Professional Level II preparation is intended to enable new teachers to apply their Preliminary Level I preparation to the demands of professional positions while also fostering advanced skills and knowledge.
- * The Professional Preparation Program (Level II) will move the special educator beyond the functional aspects of teaching to more advanced knowledge and reflective thinking about his or her role in providing effective instruction and an environment for student success.
- * The essential features of a Level II program are: the Induction Plan; support activities; academic requirements that are advanced, build on the knowledge base established in Level I and contribute to effective practice. Twenty-five per cent of the academic requirements may be met with non-university activities. The academic coursework may also be part of an advanced degree program.

Level II coursework must not be duplicative of coursework taken during Level I preparation. If coursework has been previously addressed in Level I, the Level II coursework must clearly be advanced and applied knowledge. For example, positive behavioral support is addressed in Level I and II preparation. In Level I foundational, entry level skills are taught. In Level II the depth of knowledge and applied skills are expanded to topics such as comprehensive behavioral supports, social skills intervention, crisis management and curricular adaptation. Level II preparation should also provide opportunities to build on the Level I foundational instruction and develop a specific content or performance emphasis such as: transition; inclusive education; behavioral intervention; serious emotional disturbance; or augmentative communication.

What can or should a teacher working towards an Education Specialist Level II credential complete if he or she is also participating in a BTSA Induction program?

BTSA Induction is both an approved credential program and a state funded program of induction into the teaching profession. The individual working towards an Education Specialist Level II credential is participating in BTSA as a program of induction into the teaching profession only. Therefore, any activity that the approved university Level II program includes as part of its approved Level II program should be completed by the individual. The approved Education Specialist Level II program is the program that will recommend the individual for the clear credential. Therefore the individual and the BTSA Induction program should look to the approved Education Specialist Level II program for guidance as to which requirements for the Clear Education Specialist credential can be completed in conjunction with the BTSA program. The approved Level II program is able to consider work completed within a BTSA program based on

Education Specialist program ***Standard 11: Nature and Inclusion of Non-University Activities:***

The institution has clearly defined criteria and procedures that allow for the inclusion of appropriate non-university activities in the Level II professional credential induction plan for each candidate. These activities are delivered by qualified individuals, supported by appropriate resources and evaluated on an ongoing basis. Non-university activities included in a candidate's Level II professional credential induction plan reflect an instructional design that is sequential, developmental and based upon a conceptual framework.

In addition, SB 1209 (Chap. 517, Stats. 2006) removed the words “study of” from both the BTSA Induction and the SB 2042 Program Standards. In January 2007, information was sent to all approved BTSA Induction and Fifth Year of Study programs detailing the four stages of implementation (<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/SB1209/update-2007-01-03.html>) of SB 1209 in relation to this section of the Education Code. In 2007-08, all approved Induction and Fifth Year of Study programs will need to ensure that the program focuses on “...application of knowledge and skills previously acquired in a preliminary credential program.”

If you have further questions regarding the requirements for the clear teaching credential, in general or special education, please contact the appropriate individual listed below:

BTSA Induction Programs

Cluster Region Director
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SB 2042 Fifth Year of Study Programs

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Education Specialist Level II Programs

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